



# *The Old Ironsides Report*



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## **All 1 AD weapons systems 'welcome' at nearly complete Kirzah Range**

Story by Cpl. Todd Pruden, 372 MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The sounds of sporadic small arms fire and explosions have become commonplace here in recent months, but 20 miles east of Baghdad, a remote desert area, the sounds will be a constant.

A new weapons firing range, known as the Kirzah Range, is in the process of being built for coalition forces and will soon be fully functional. The opening date is scheduled for Oct. 10; however four ranges are currently open. Ground was broken for the site Aug. 13.

Built by the 1457<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, a Utah Army National Guard unit and the 203<sup>rd</sup> Engineer Battalion, a Missouri Army National Guard unit, the site will have all amenities of existing Army compounds in Iraq, and maybe even more than most.

"The intent is having a permanent range for as long as the U.S. is here," said Capt. Lance Pearce, A Company commander, 203<sup>rd</sup> Engineer Battalion.

Currently being built on the site are 46 16 by 32 foot barracks, large enough to hold 10 soldiers comfortably and up to 18 at maximum capacity. Nine structures will be home for the permanent party range controllers. All will be equipped with air conditioning and electricity. Restrooms equipped with showers, sink and toilets are under construction as well as a dining facility and a laundry facility. According to Pearce, up to 500 soldiers can live in the area at one time.

More than 300 engineers from the 203<sup>rd</sup> Engineer Battalion have taken on the task of building the wooden structures. For security purposes, the 1457th Engineer Battalion formed a berm with the use of heavy equipment.

The work can be very rewarding for the soldiers.

"Many of the soldiers do this in the civilian world," said Pearce. "This is exactly the type of job



**Soldiers from Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division, test fire their weapons at 1AD's Kirzah Range in Iraq during a reconnaissance mission to survey the range for future weapons qualifications operations. Photo by Sgt. Christopher Stanis, 1AD PAO.**

we are trained to do. You don't usually get this type of construction job on a typical drill weekend."

Encompassing 56 square kilometers, there will be eight different types of ranges at the site which will include small arms firing, squad live fire, aviation, Paladins and artillery position, convoy live fire and machinegun transition, according to Sgt. First Class Bill Courchen, 1st Armored Division's Bradley master gunner.

Courchen said the schedule of those units designated to use the range has already been made for the next six months. Each brigade will have six to eight weeks to use the range.

"All weapons systems organic to the division will be able to shoot here," Courchen said.

## NEWS

### House Votes to Launch Do-Not-Call List

WASHINGTON (AP) - The House approved legislation Thursday aimed at ensuring the national "do-not-call" list goes into effect as scheduled next week so consumers can block many unwanted telemarketing sales pitches. The House voted 412-8 after less than hour of debate. Lawmakers from both parties uniformly blasted a decision by U.S. District Judge Lee R. West, who ruled Tuesday that the Federal Trade Commission lacked authority to create and operate the registry.

### Candidates Spar in Calif. Recall Debate

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) - The so-called "Super Bowl of debates" between the top candidates vying to replace Gov. Gray Davis turned out to be less scripted than expected, with rivals frequently trading barbs and talking over each other. The debate Wednesday was the only recall forum that Republican Arnold Schwarzenegger had agreed to attend, and Californians tuned in to see how the Hollywood star fared in his debut as a political ad-libber.

### Researchers Overcome Quirk to Clone Rat

WASHINGTON (AP) - Researchers in France have cloned the rat, overcoming a quirk in the rodent's physiology that has thwarted many earlier attempts to genetically duplicate this important laboratory animal. Both male and female white rats were cloned using a technique that slowed the maturing of the rats eggs used in the procedure, according to a report in the journal Science from researchers at the National Institute of Agricultural Research at Joy en Josas, France.

### Chaplain's Thought for the Day:

#### **Off-Loading Our Cares**

*Cast your burden on the Lord, and He shall sustain you. -- Psalm 55:22*

Computers can get overloaded. We add programs to them, store tons of information, and work on big projects. Finally it will send us a clear message, informing us that it is incapable of taking any more.

If we don't relieve it immediately, it will "crash." So we get some extra disks and do some quick off-loading. We put each project on a disk of its own and trash a lot of stuff we no longer needed. Our grateful computer breathes a sigh of relief and begins functioning normally again.

Sometimes our lives get to be like our computer. We pack in so much responsibility and activity and commitment, and we carry so much unresolved emotion that we feel we can't take it anymore. The burdens and cares seem enormous. If we're honest, we'll admit that we're about to "crash."

When we get signals of overload--sleeplessness, irritability, worry--it's time to do some off-loading. The psalmist suggested, we must off-load our cares on the Lord. He has promised to help us carry our burdens.

God invites us to burden Him with whatever burdens us.

## SPORTS

### Forsman plays his way out of magical round

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (Ticker) -- Dan Forsman was locked in Thursday during a string of five consecutive birdies, then distracted himself.

Forsman ran off his streak of birdies en route to a 6-under-par 29 on the front side at LaCantera Golf Club, but he had two bogeys on the back before settling for a 6-under 64 in the first round of the Texas Open.

"I was on the 14th hole with a 5-iron in my hand," he said. "I'm thinking, 'If I eagle this hole, I'm going to get to 10-under and I'll birdie one of the last two and I can shoot 59.' I allowed me to think about it."

The distraction of a 59 is understandable.

It is the best any pro has shot in competition. Al Geiberger did it in 1977 at Memphis, Chip Beck matched the feat in 1991 at Las Vegas and David Duval equaled it in 1999 at the Bob Hope Classic.

"I made a good swing at 14, but it came out to the right," the 45-year-old Forsman said. "Then, I wasn't able to birdie the hole, and it was a little bit of a letdown. Then, I bogeyed the next two holes. At that point, the momentum had switched entirely, and now it was whether or not I can par the rest of the holes coming in."

### **TODAY'S SAFETY TIP: HAZMAT Spills**

- Contain and cleanup small spills (less than five gallons) within safety constraints immediately.
- For spills that are too large to handle, or for spills that pose a health or safety hazard to personnel or the environment, notify the Fire Department.

### **On This Day In History: August 26, 1957**

#### **CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL INTEGRATED:**

Under escort from the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division, nine black students enter all-white Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Three weeks earlier, Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus had surrounded the school with National Guard troops to prevent its federal court-ordered racial integration.

After a tense standoff, President Dwight D. Eisenhower federalized the Arkansas National Guard and sent 1,000 army paratroopers to Little Rock to enforce the court order.

source: historychannel.com

